

Public Law 114–275
114th Congress

An Act

To require limitations on prescribed burns.

Dec. 14, 2016

[S. 3395]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016”.

Prescribed Burn
Approval Act of
2016.

16 USC 551 note.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

16 USC 551c–1
note.

(1) NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM.—The term “national fire danger rating system” means the national system used to provide a measure of fire danger according to a range of low to moderate to high to very high to extreme.

(2) PRESCRIBED BURN.—The term “prescribed burn” means a planned fire intentionally ignited.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS ON PRESCRIBED BURNS.

16 USC 551c–1.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall not authorize a prescribed burn on Forest Service land if, for the county or contiguous county in which the land is located, the national fire danger rating system indicates an extreme fire danger level.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may authorize a prescribed burn under a condition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary coordinates with the applicable State government and local fire officials.

Coordination.

(c) REPORT.—At the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) the number and locations of prescribed burns during that fiscal year; and

(2) each prescribed burn during that fiscal year that was authorized by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b).

Approved December 14, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 3395:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 162 (2016):

Nov. 17, considered and passed Senate.

Dec. 5, considered and passed House.